



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Health Releases Report on New Mothers and Babies in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today announced the release of the *North Dakota PRAMS – 2002 Survey Results* report on new mothers and babies.

The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a survey designed to measure experiences and behaviors that occur before, during and immediately after pregnancy. The 2002 survey collected information from new mothers in North Dakota about pregnancy planning, health-service use, lifestyle and health characteristics, prenatal stress and complications, and infant health characteristics and services. The survey was completed in collaboration with researchers at North Dakota State University.

“PRAMS is an important surveillance activity for North Dakota,” said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D., M.P.H.T.M. “Information obtained from this survey will help us and our partners across the state design services to improve the health of mothers and their babies.”

The following are among the results of the survey:

- About 82 percent of respondents indicated they received prenatal care as early as they wanted.
- About 16 percent said they smoked cigarettes during the last three months of pregnancy.
- The three most common complications respondents experienced during pregnancy were (1) early labor; (2) severe nausea, vomiting or dehydration; and (3) high blood pressure or edema.
- Nearly all respondents (99%) said their infants rode home from the hospital in infant car seats.

Copies of the report can be obtained by calling 701.328.4963 or by downloading from the state health department website at www.ndmch.com/publications/NDPRAMS2002SurveyResults.pdf.

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